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# NAHANNI

NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

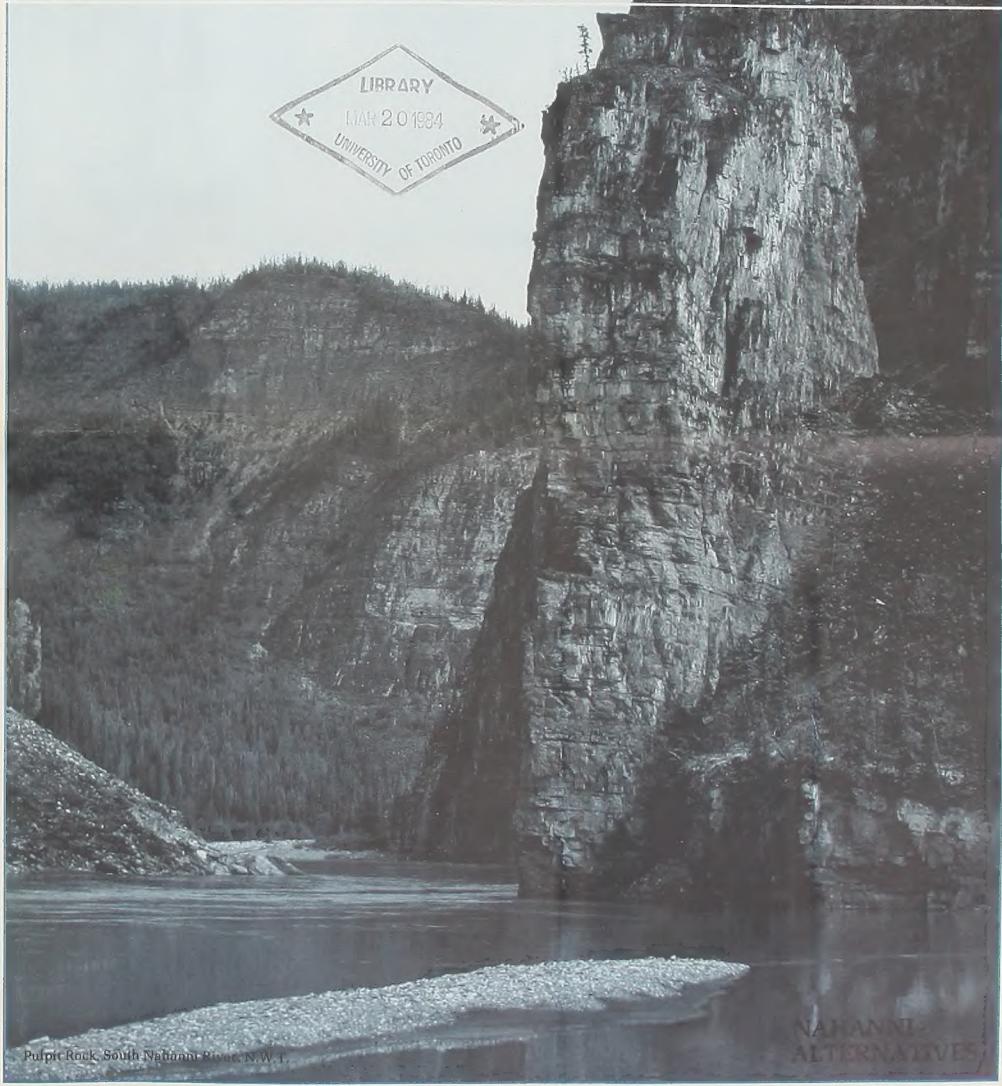


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MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 3



Purple Rock, South Nahanni River, N.W.T.

NAHANNI  
ALTERNATIVES

# NAHANNI ALTERNATIVES

The Nahanni management planning program is now at the alternatives review stage. Alternatives are the second major step in the national park management planning process. This stage shows the results of the analysis from the Information Exchange phase.

The planning team has compiled your views from the last public meetings. As a result of reading your letters and briefs, talking to you personally, and considering a variety of other sources of information, a set of alternative proposals has been prepared. These alternatives reflect the fact that there may be more than one way to meet certain park objectives, or a particular problem. In this way, the various public opinions relative to Nahanni are reflected in the alternatives. Your opinions at this more detailed level of planning are especially important.

## NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK RESERVE/ PARK PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES STATEMENT

As a result of comments and suggestions received from the first two Newsletters, briefs and meetings, a revised PARK PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES STATEMENT is reprinted here.

### 1.0 PARK DESCRIPTION

#### 1.1 Physical Description

Nahanni National Park Reserve occupies a 4766 square kilometre area in the heart of the Mackenzie Mountains. Located in the southwest corner of the Northwest Territories, the park is a wilderness corridor centred along the course of the South Nahanni and Flat rivers.

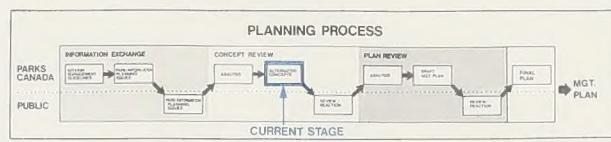
The park occupies one-seventh of the South Nahanni watershed which drains an area of 35,000 square kilometres into the Mackenzie drainage basin via the Liard River.

Nahanni National Park Reserve is the Natural Area of Canadian Significance representative of the Mackenzie Mountains Natural Region. Located in the

These alternatives are not final plans, but rather sets of ideas and directions, any one of which may be implemented if it is found to be the most appropriate solution for the park.

One major step remains in the planning program. As a result of your feedback from these alternatives, a draft management plan

proposal will be distributed for comment. By then, many of the major issues detailing the future management of the park should be resolved. Feedback from the draft management plan will be sought through the public participation program as a final step in this process.



northern section of the Cordilleran physiographic region, the area is mainly mountainous with a diversified topography consisting of mountain ranges, rolling hills, elevated plateaux, broad depressions, and incised river valleys. In the east and central park areas, sandstones, shales, and limestones of dissected mountain ranges predominate. These contrast markedly with the classic alpine shapes of the igneous Ragged Range in the park's western extremity. One of the most striking landscape features of the park is the river entrenchment of the lower South Nahanni. Untouched by glaciation, the river has formed steep-walled canyons and sheer cliffs, in some places over 1000 metres deep. Perhaps the best known feature of the park is Virginia Falls.

Other landform features of significance include numerous hot springs exemplified by Wildmink and Rabbitkettle Hot Springs. The sheer granite faces of the Ragged Range are world renowned by the international climbing fraternity. A spectacular karst above First Canyon, and Grotte Valérie, a fine example of a solu-

tion cave, represent the well developed features of the aqueous solution of limestone. The sub-Arctic setting of these features, in an area unmodified by glaciation, is especially noteworthy.

The climate of the park area is continental. Wide monthly variations in temperature and precipitation exist due to year. Variations in temperature and precipitation are also apparent between the east and west ends of the park, the eastern end being generally warmer and drier. Hot dry summer weather may predominate for weeks, yet snow has been recorded in valleys of both the Flat and South Nahanni rivers in all months of the year.

The vegetation of the park is predominantly boreal with a transition from lowland wet areas to alpine tundra. White spruce and trembling aspen characterize valley bottoms. Montane and subalpine zones are by far the most common vegetation zones in the park with extensive spruce and pine mixtures. Several noteworthy plant communities are represented around hot springs, alluvial fans, and in the karst plateaux.



Nahanni includes portions of the habitats of significant wildlife species such as Dall's sheep, black and grizzly bear, wolf, golden eagle, peregrine falcon, and trumpeter swan. An unusual faunal diversity is found in the park for such a northern location because of the variation in topography and vegetation. The rugged and remote nature of the Nahanni country has also served to protect its varied wildlife species.

Access to Nahanni can be achieved by a variety of routes and modes. There are no roads to the park. The Liard Highway from Fort Nelson to the Mackenzie Highway allows road access to within 64 river kilometres of the eastern park boundary. Scheduled air services are available to Fort Simpson, Watson Lake and Fort Liard. The village of Nahanni Butte is the closest community to the park, 32 kilometres from the eastern park boundary. Chartered float planes have been the usual mode of access to Nahanni headwaters for visitors using non-motorized methods of river travel. Road access to tributaries of the upper South Nahanni is possible via Tungsien or the Canol Road.

## 1.2 Park Use, Facilities, Services, and Programs

The park's administration headquarters is located in Fort Simpson. A year-round operations centre is located at Nahanni Butte warden station.

Visitor facilities are few in keeping with the park's wilderness objectives. Six primitive campsite areas are located along the 300 kilometre course of the South Nahanni River through the park. Visitors may register at the Fort Simpson headquarters, Nahanni Butte warden station, or at Rabbitkettle Hotspings. Check-in stations are located at Virginia Falls, Deadmen Valley, and Kraus Hotspings. Two camping areas are currently set aside for the designated use of powerboat outfitters:

Nahanni receives over 500 visitors per year. The majority of visitors, 71%, are Canadians. Americans comprise 22% of total visitation with the remainder being primarily of western European origin.

The visitor season in Nahanni is short. The period during which the rivers are navigable and traditional summer travel patterns, result in peak visitation during July and August (36% and 53% of visitation respectively). The shoulder seasons are June and September (with 6% and 5% of visitation respectively). Day use is limited to fly-in visitation to Virginia Falls. Remoteness, severity of climate, and the absence of facilities virtually negate the potential for winter use.

River travel is the most practical and popular mode of experiencing the park. Of the various types of river travel, 85% is non-motorized use (rafts, kayaks, canoes) while 15% is powered (snows, jet-boats, airboats). Almost 25% of total visitation is commercially guided by licensed outfitters. The park controls both air access and motorized boat use.

The majority of visitors come to experience Nahanni's awesome canyons, and Virginia Falls, a spectacle of incredible power, within the setting of a wilderness river corridor. The park encourages appreciation and enjoyment of its wilderness, rugged environment and natural beauty. Visitors can experience the thrill of wild river touring which is the primary visitor activity in the park.

The only interpretive event currently offered in Nahanni is a guided tour of Rabbitkettle Hotspings. Although there are no developed trails in the park, opportunities for off-river hiking to alpine tundra areas, and ridge walking, are



Near Twisted Mountain

among the finest in the country. Opportunities for nature study and photography are outstanding.

## 1.3 Considerations

The wilderness river character of Nahanni was a prime rationale for the park's establishment. It is important to recognize that this feature is part of the natural heritage resources of the park and should be considered as a paramount factor in park management and development.

Although Parks Canada's program is not primarily one of regional, social, or economic development, it is recognized that Nahanni exists within a social and economic sphere of the Northwest Territories. Parks Canada has a commitment to consider the impact of its operations relative to regional concern. This includes issues such as fire management, co-operation in wildlife management, and recognizing the rights of native peoples as guaranteed by the 1974 "Park Reserve" clause amending the National Parks Act. The park will co-operate with agencies working in adjacent areas by liaising on projects of mutual interest such as tourism and territorial park development.

Wildlife harvesting provides native residents of the area with a traditional lifestyle and an important source of income. Certain areas of the park have been traditional hunting and trapping grounds. As a result of various aspects of park operations, employment and economic opportunities accrue to local and regional residents.

Because Nahanni is located at the downstream end of the South Nahanni watershed, it is imperative that Parks Canada remains aware of and involved in regional planning, water use licensing, and overall development of the watershed. Through inter-agency co-operation, Parks Canada will help to ensure that the park's water quality and environmental integrity are maintained.

The status of Nahanni as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Canada's obligations as a member state adhering to the 1972 World Heritage Convention, commits Environment Canada to ensure the preservation of the characteristics for which Nahanni was nominated to the World Heritage List.

## 2.0 PURPOSE

### 2.1 Purpose of the Park in the National Park System

Nahanni National Park Reserve is an outstanding example of northern wilderness rivers, canyons, gorges and alpine tundra. The park protects for all time a Natural Area of Canadian Significance representative of the Mackenzie Mountains natural region and enables present and future generations to continue to appreciate and experience the park's wilderness environment.

### 2.2 Heritage Resources and Processes

The Nahanni wilderness river corridor exhibits one of the most impressive canyon systems in Canada. The South Nahanni is an especially powerful river with large flow volumes and great seasonal variations. Virginia Falls is one of North America's great cataracts, with almost twice the vertical drop of Niagara Falls. The lower reaches of the South Nahanni River are bordered by sub-Arctic karst landscapes recognized to be of particular scientific significance. This karst has escaped glaciation for up to 300,000 years, an unusual occurrence in such northern latitudes.

The limestone solution caves above First Canyon number in the hundreds. Some exceptional examples such as Grotte Valérie display extensive development of caverns, ice-falls, and other cave features. Grotte Valérie is also noted for the discovery of Dall's sheep skeletons inside the labyrinth, some of which are over 2500 years old.

The canyons, superb alpine tundra, and the crags of the Ragged Range provide habitats for a variety of animal species which are coming under increasing pressure as development extends into the north. Particularly significant wildlife includes Dall's sheep, grizzly bear, peregrine falcon, mountain goat, and woodland caribou.

Other features of particular note abound in the park. The Sand Blowsout is an area of sandstone outcrop displaying fantastic formations of contorted, wind-sculptured arches and pillars, while the glaciated peaks of the Ragged Range provide superb examples of cirques, hanging valleys, and Matterhorn peaks.

Although the native history of Nahanni dates far into the past, little cultural record remains of this ancient mountain region. Its people, ethnologically classified as Gwich'in Mountain Indians and Kaska Indians, were known historically as "Nahanni's" meaning literally "people over there, far away." The first European contact occurred in the 1820's when the fur trade reached the region. However, it was the lure of the century gold rush that started the influx of explorers into the mountains of the Nahanni country. The death or disappearance of a number of prospectors fuelled the macabre tales that gave the park some of its foreboding place names: Deadmen Valley, Headless Creek, the Funeral Range. These elements have been integral to the public perception of the region and the park in particular.

### 3.0 PARK OBJECTIVES

#### 3.1 Protection and Preservation of Natural and Cultural Resources

##### 3.1.1 Natural Heritage Resources

Parks Canada will protect for all time the wilderness river corridor of Nahanni National Park Reserve by ensuring the perpetuation of its wildlife habitats and populations, vegetation communities, land and water ecosystems. These include nationally and internationally significant resources such as the karst uplands, Virginia Falls, hot springs and their vegetation communities, trumpeter swan nesting areas, the Sand Blowouts, and Grotte Valerie.

The Nahanni wilderness will be maintained as an essentially unaltered, primitive, and unpolluted corridor, and will be sustained so that Nahanni will remain a superb wilderness representation of the Mackenzie Mountain natural region.

##### 3.1.2 Historic and Cultural Resources

Parks Canada will protect significant cultural resources in the park. The native and European history and traditions will be recorded to provide visitors with the opportunity to understand and appreciate the colourful history of the park and its peoples.

##### 3.2 Appreciation, Understanding, and Enjoyment of Park Resources

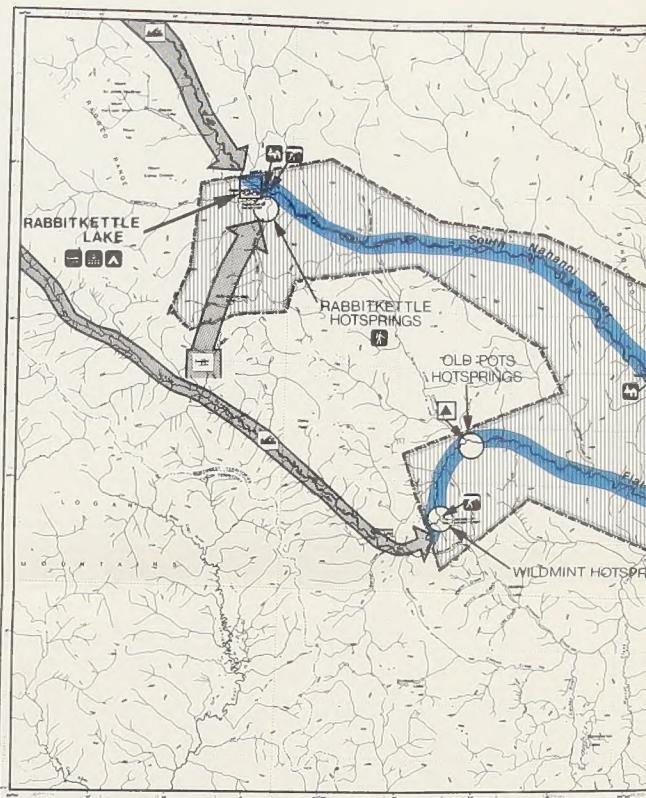
Parks Canada will provide appropriate and compatible opportunities for the public to appreciate, understand, and enjoy the natural resources of Nahanni, including the canyon systems, hot springs, karst landscapes, alpine tundra, and wildlife species of the park. The primary experience offered by Nahanni is the thrill of superb wilderness river touring. Opportunities for compatible modes of access, and the provision, where necessary, of appropriate facilities, will be afforded to visitors in a manner that maintains Nahanni's river corridor wilderness. Interpretation of the park will include both natural and cultural themes.

##### 3.3 Regional Integration

Parks Canada will ensure that the planning, management, and development of Nahanni is, where possible, compatible with local and regional considerations in a mutually beneficial manner. This includes:

- integrating the wildlife and fire management procedures in the park with those of peripheral areas with the involved agencies and jurisdictions;
- working with Government of the Northwest Territories agencies to ensure that compatible and mutual areas of interest are considered in the development of regional tourism;
- maintaining a liaison with local communities to address mutual concerns in terms of park management, employment opportunities, and wildlife harvesting within the park boundaries; and

## NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK RESERVE



### EXISTING USE AND FACILITIES.

#### ZONING:

- ZONE I. SPECIAL PRESERVATION AREA
- ZONE II. WILDERNESS
- ZONE IV. OUTDOOR RECREATION

THERE ARE NO ZONE III OR V AREAS.

#### RIVER CORRIDOR USE:

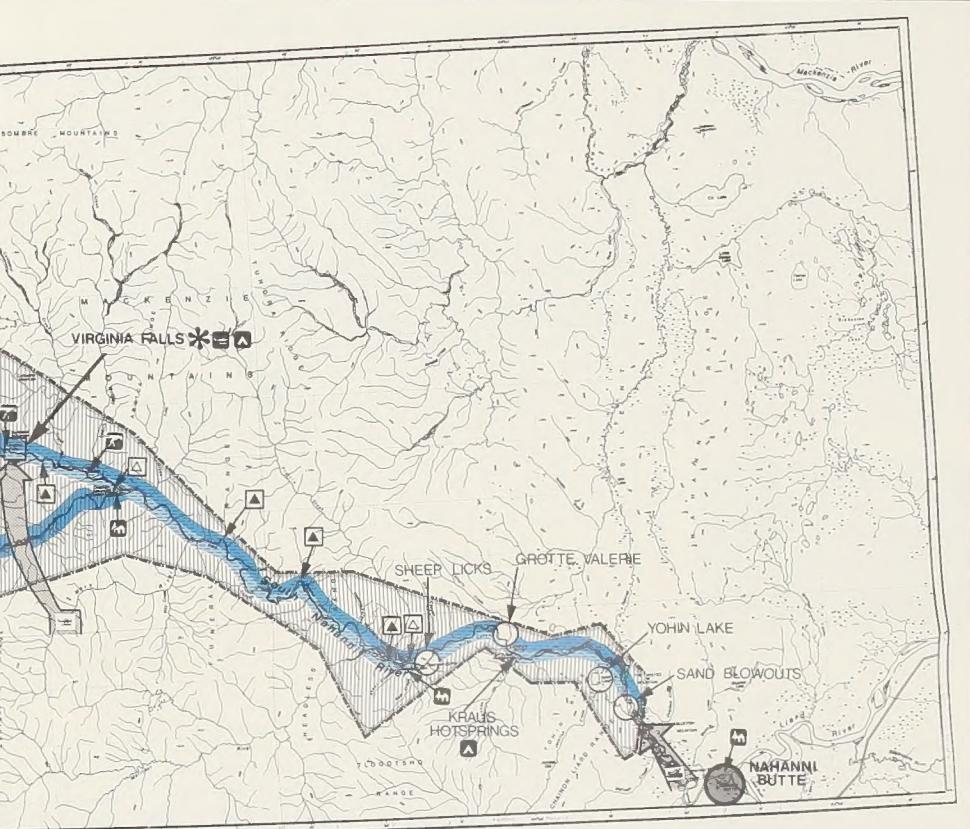
NON-MOTORIZED	CAMPING
MOTORIZED	OUTFITTING
PORTAGE	
PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUND	

- co-operating through various advisory and joint regional planning efforts with federal agencies in the monitoring and management of regional land use issues that concern the park. For instance, the pristine quality of waters flowing into Nahanni is essential to the perpetuation of the park's character. Actions that degrade the water baseline quality of the park are unacceptable, and Parks Canada will work with the appropriate

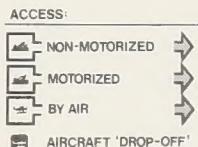
agencies having jurisdiction upstream of the park's boundaries to ensure the protection of that quality.

#### PLANNING PRINCIPLES\*

Early in the program, a set of Planning Principles was presented for your review and comments. Your responses, recorded in newsletter #2, indicated an overwhelming approval for these prin-



OTHER CODINGS:	
	DESIGNATED CAMP
	WARDEN CABIN
	DAY-USE AREA
	GUIDED TOUR



LEGEND	
SPOT ELEVATION IN FEET	POINT COTE EN PIEDS
RIVER AND STREAM	RIVIERE ET RUISSEAU
INTERMITTENT STREAM	COURS D'EAU INTERMITTENT
SAND, GRAVEL OR WOOL	SABLE, GRAVIER OU VIOU
LAKE	LAC
SHRUB	HAIE
AIRPORT	AEROPORT
PARK BOUNDARY	FRONTEER DU PARC

Scale: Kilometers Miles

ciples. This response confirmed that Nahanni's management plan and future operations should strive to maintain the park's wilderness character and resources. The principles are reprinted here for your comparison with the alternatives and position statements presented.

1. Wilderness is the essence of Nahanni National Park Reserve. Maintaining this river corridor wilderness is the prime planning principle.
2. Only those land uses and activities com-

patible with this river corridor wilderness will be encouraged.

3. Parks Canada will encourage those visitor activities in Nahanni that require a minimum of support, essential primitive (if any) facilities, self-reliance on the park of visitors, and a low-density of use.

4. Nahanni National Park Reserve is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Management Plan must be compatible with Parks Canada's international obligations under the World Heritage

#### Site convention:

5. Park operations and management will be consistent with the first planning principle.
6. Public access into Nahanni National Park Reserve will be managed to maintain the river corridor wilderness.

\*River corridor wilderness, in the case of Nahanni National Park Reserve, implies an essentially unaltered, primitive and unpolluted river corridor which includes the areas bordering the rivers within the park reserve's boundaries.

## ALTERNATIVE PLANS

Early in the planning program, it became apparent that wilderness management was the central issue in Nahanni. However, defining the nature of wilderness management is difficult for it is largely a subjective concept. Parks Canada Policy guidelines relate wilderness to low density of use, self-reliance on the part of visitors, non-motorized access where feasible, and the avoidance of general facility development. These alternative plan concepts for Nahanni include provision for limited activities that may seem contrary to some people's personal expectation of a wilderness-oriented park. On the other hand, the nature of other alternatives, and the extent of visitor use and services, may seem too limited for others. In general, low density of use, and minimal development (primitive facilities, if any) are common to all alternatives. Emphasis has been placed on a non-motorized park to maintain the character of wilderness. The commitment to avoid or limit facility development to ensure a quality wilderness opportunity for park visitors is implicit in all alternatives.

The range of alternatives reflects the spectrum of the public opinions we received. As the planning program progresses, and with your feedback on these alternatives, a more concrete expression of the right kind of wilderness management for Nahanni will emerge.



Exploring the canyons.

### ALTERNATIVE I

This alternative defines a clear intent to manage Nahanni as a wilderness-oriented park. The traditional parameters of wilderness management and the maintenance of the wilderness river corridor are paramount.

Inherent in this alternative is the national parks zoning policy intent that the "majority of national park lands and their living resources are protected in a wilderness state with a minimum of man-made facilities". Emphasis is placed on protection of the visitor experience for those groups seeking a visit most compatible with park management objectives. Visitors must demonstrate self-reliance, commitment, and a capability to see Nahanni in ways compatible with the essential preservation of the wilderness resource.

Facility development is minimal and restricted to specific areas where visitor concentration would lead to resource impairment without such facilities. All motorized aircraft activity is excluded except for specific park management purposes. Air access to park headwaters is provided for, but overflights of the river corridor will be discouraged. The management intent is that while visitors may gain access to the headwaters of the river corridor by aircraft, air touring over the park for purposes of "flightseeing" is not a compatible park use and diminishes the park visitor experience.

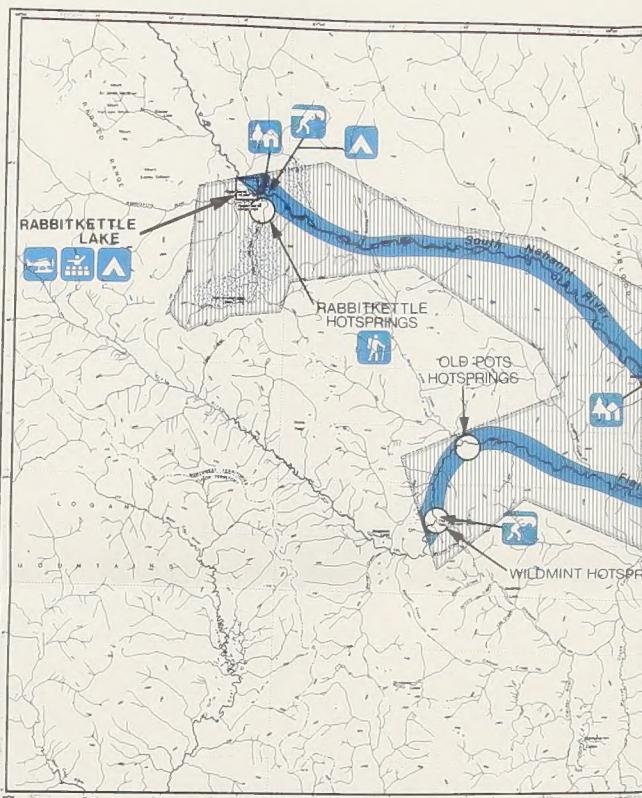
#### Air Access

- air access will be designated for Rabbitkettle Lake for drop-off purposes only.

#### Motorized River Access

- no provision is made for motorized travel by the public on any park waters.

## NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK RESERVE



### ALTERNATIVE I

#### ZONING:

-  **ZONE I. SPECIAL PRESERVATION AREA**
-  **ZONE II. WILDERNESS**
-  **ZONE IV. OUTDOOR RECREATION  
RABBITKETTLE LAKE ONLY**

**THERE ARE NO ZONE III OR V AREAS.**

#### ( ALL ALTERNATIVES RETAIN EXISTING RIVER CORRIDOR USE )

#### RIVER CORRIDOR USE:

-  **NON-MOTORIZED COMMERCIAL & PRIVATE**
-  **NO MOTORIZED USE**
-  **DESIGNATED CAMPGROUND**

#### Trails and Off-River Use

- guided tour access only to Rabbitkettle Hot-springs.
- no developed hiking trails.
- encouragement of general hiking and off-river travel will be through provision of detailed information (maps, area descriptions, instructions, etc.).

#### Day-Use

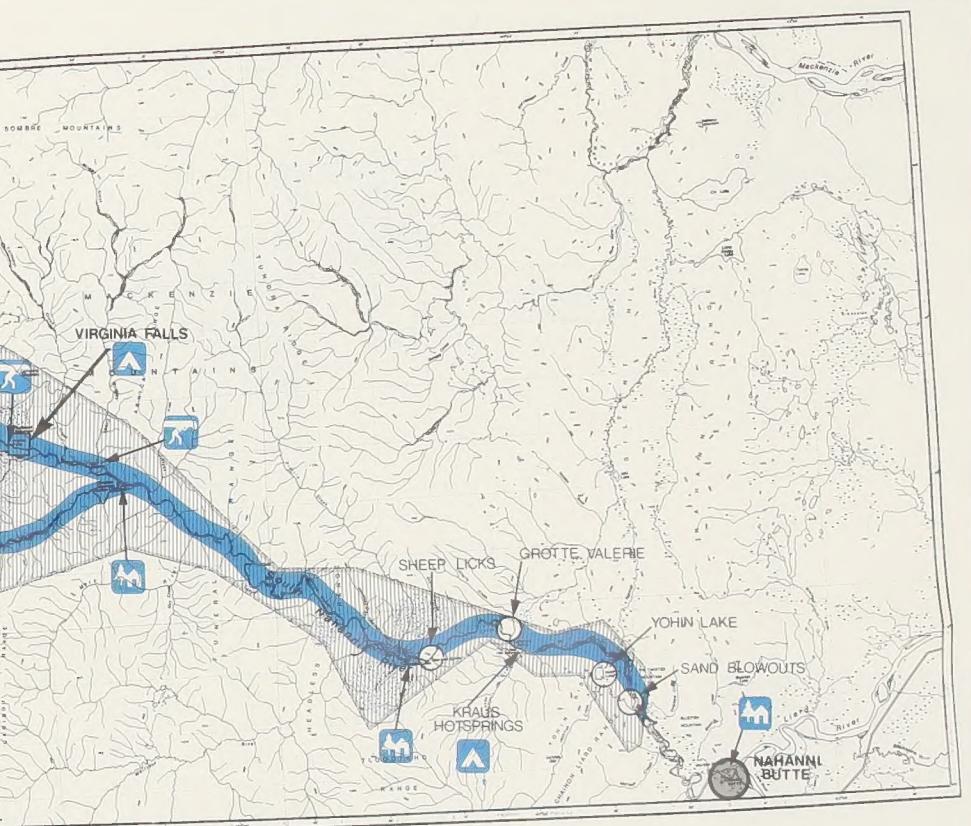
- no provisions will be made for day use.

#### Facilities

- designated campgrounds at Rabbitkettle Lake, Rabbitkettle Portage on the South Nahanni River, Virginia Falls, and Kraus Hotsprings.
- warden patrol cabins at selected sites and portages maintained to suitable standards.

#### Outfitting

- provision of commercial services for visitor travel in Nahanni will be by non-motorized modes of ac-



#### GES & WARDEN STATIONS

##### OTHER CODINGS:



WARDEN CABIN



AIRCRAFT 'DROP-OFF'



GUIDED TOUR



TRAIL



AREAS PROMOTED FOR  
OFF-RIVER USE / TRAVEL  
PENDING ASSESSMENT

#### LEGENDE

SMALL ELEVATION IN FEET	POINT COTE DE PIED
RIVER AND STREAM	RIVIÈRE ET RUISSEAU
INTERMITTENT STREAM	COULE D'EAU INTERRITENT
SAND, GRAVEL OR MUD	SABLE, GRÈVE OU BOUE
LAKE	LAC
DENSE FOREST	FORÊT DENSE
ROCKS	ROCHE
AIRPORT	AÉROPORT
PARK BOUNDARY	LIMITES DU PARC

Scale: Miles Kilometers

cess (canoes, rafts, etc.).

- no specific camping areas would be designated for commercial use. "No-impact" camping techniques would be mandatory.
- group size limitations would be implemented.

#### Zoning

- zone I (Special Preservation) areas will be consistent with all alternatives: Rabbitkettle Hot Springs, Grotte Valerie, Wild Mint Hot Springs,

Old Pots Hot Springs, Deadmen Valley Sheep Licks, Sand Blowouts, and Yohin Lake.

- zone II (Wilderness) status will be designated along the entire park river corridors of the South Nahanni and Flat Rivers.
- no zone III (Natural Environment) or zone V (Park Services) areas will be proposed.
- all areas not otherwise designated are zone II (Wilderness).

• zone IV (Outdoor Recreation) status will be designated for Rabbitkettle Lake for air access purposes.



Rafting the South Nahanni

#### ALTERNATIVE II

Alternative II represents an intermediate level in terms of wilderness-oriented park management. Management emphasis would be directed towards wilderness objectives, however, significant opportunities for additional visitor use and access would be provided.

The major features of alternative II include the provision of aircraft access for drop-off purposes and day use at Virginia Falls. Access is therefore facilitated for a variety of visitor groups. Direct access to Virginia Falls allows visitors to start their visit at a park mid-point and schedule a shorter visit than one originating at Rabbitkettle Lake. In the same way, day use would allow for visits of short duration to permit visitors to see the Falls.

Facility development will be primitive in nature and minimal in extent and scale in keeping with the park's wilderness objectives. Provision of a day use area at Virginia Falls is a significant addition to the designated campgrounds at Rabbitkettle Lake, Robbinville Portage, Virginia Falls, and Kraus Hot Springs. Management intent is the preservation of the wilderness corridor, and the related visitor experience, with additional opportunities for day use, and air access at the mid-point of the park.

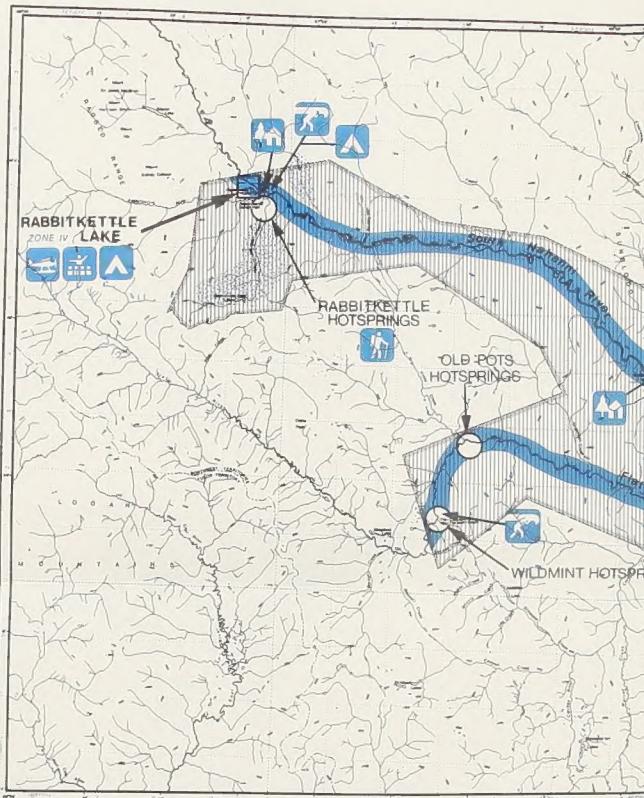


Virginia Falls

#### Air Access

- air access will be designated for Rabbitkettle Lake and for Virginia Falls.
- air access to Rabbitkettle Lake will be for drop-off purposes only.
- air access to Virginia Falls would include provision for day-use.

## NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK RESERVE



#### ALTERNATIVE II

##### ZONING:

- ZONE I. SPECIAL PRESERVATION AREA
- ZONE II. WILDERNESS
- ZONE IV. OUTDOOR RECREATION

THERE ARE NO ZONE III OR V AREAS.

##### RIVER CORRIDOR USE:

- NON-MOTORIZED USE COMMERCIAL & PRIVATE
- NO MOTORIZED USE
- DESIGNATED CAMPGROUND
- PORTAGE



#### Motorized River Access

- no provision will be made for public motorized travel on any park waters.

#### Trails and Off-River Use

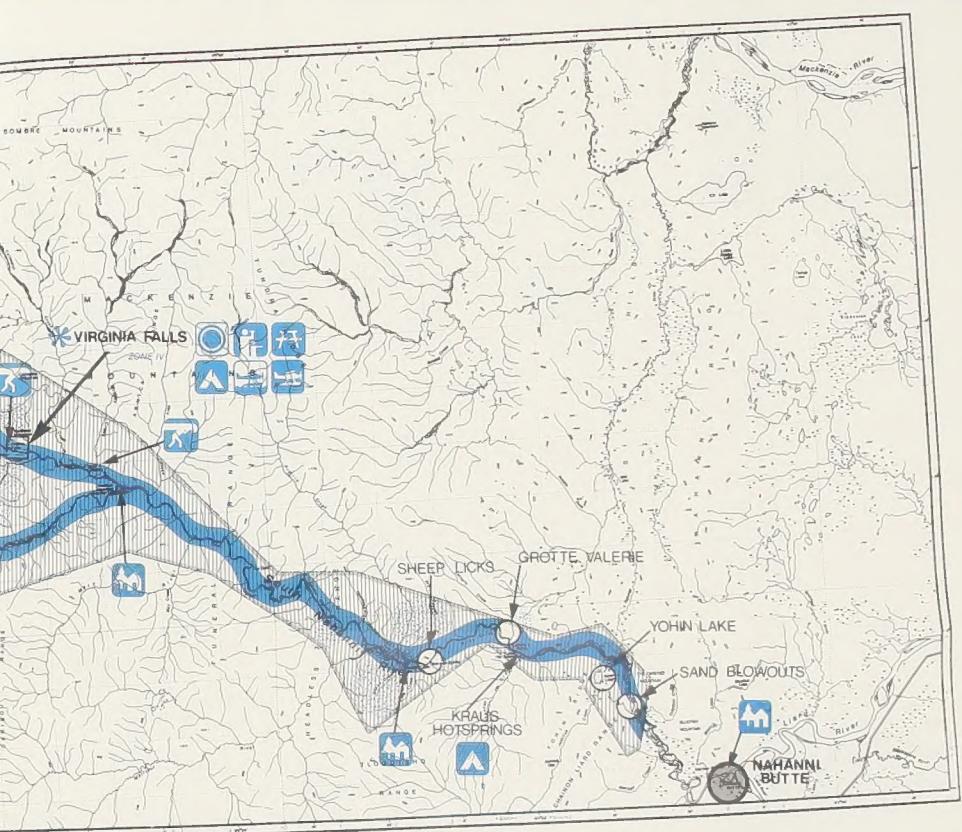
- access trail to Rabbitkettle Hot Springs - guided tour access only.
- no developed hiking trails.
- encouragement of general hiking and off-river travel through provision of detailed information [maps, park descriptions, instructions, etc.]

#### Day-Use

- accepted at Virginia Falls.

- associated development [picnic area, pit privies, access paths, etc.] would be separated from existing designated campground facilities.

- commercial day-use visitation may require scheduling by air charter firms with the Park Superintendent. Group size limitations would be implemented.



XISTING PORTAGES & WARDEN STATIONS ARE RETAINED.)

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OTHER CODINGS:



WARDEN CABIN



GUIDED TOUR



TRAIL



AIRCRAFT  
'DROP-OFF'

AREAS PROMOTED FOR OFF-RIVER USE/TRAVEL PENDING ASSESSMENT

LEGEND

SHFT ELEVATION IN FEET	RIVER, LAKE & STREAM	POINT ON RIVER
	INTERMITTENT STREAM	RIVER ET RAVINE
	SAND, GRAVEL OR MUD	COURS D'EAU INTERMITTENT
	LAKE	SABLE, GRAVEL OU BOUE
	ROCKS	LAC
	ROCKS	ROCHE
	AIRPORT	CHAMPION
	PARK BOUNDARY	AEROPORT

Facilities

- designated campgrounds at Rabbitkettle Lake, Rabbitkettle Portage on the South Nahanni River, Virginia Falls, and Kraus Hotspings.
- day-use facilities at Virginia Falls (picnic area, access paths, promontory, viewpoint).
- warden patrol cabins at selected sites and portages maintained to suitable standards.

Outfitting

- provision of commercial outfitting services for visitor travel in Nahanni will be by non-

motorized modes of access (canoe, raft, etc.).  
no specific camping areas would be designated for commercial use. "No-impact" camping techniques would be mandatory.  
group size limitations would be implemented.

Zoning

- zone I (Special Preservation) areas will be consistent with all other alternatives: Rabbitkettle Hotspings, Grotte Valerie, Wild Mint Hotspings, Old Pois Hotspings, Deadmen Valley Sheep Licks, Sand Blowouts, and Yohin Lake.

zone II (Wilderness) status will be designated along the entire park river corridors of the South Nahanni and Flat Rivers.

zone IV (Outdoor Recreation) status will be designated for Rabbitkettle Lake and a short river segment above Virginia Falls for air access purposes.

no zone III (Natural Environment) or zone V (Park Services) areas will be proposed.  
all areas not otherwise designated will be zone II (Wilderness).



Jet boating through First Canyon.

#### ALTERNATIVE III

Alternative III represents the upper level of development opportunities appropriate to Nahanni while staying within the intent of the present park purpose statement. Emphasis is placed on providing opportunities for access to a broad range of visitors.

Significant features of this alternative include the provision of day-use at Virginia Falls and Rabbitkettle Lake by air access. Motorized access would be provided for both private and commercial motorcraft on the South Nahanni River below Virginia Falls to the eastern park boundary. The Flat River would remain designated for non-motorized travel only.

Inherent in the alternative is the intent to restrict motorized river use and air access for day-use purposes to levels that minimize impact on the experience of other river travellers. Nevertheless, the alternative is one that seeks compromise and by nature implies that some areas would receive considerably more use than others, and hence, might represent a lower quality of wilderness experience. On the other hand, this alternative allows a broader range of people to experience Nahanni.

Significant additions to facility development in this alternative include the provision of day-use facilities at Rabbitkettle Lake and Virginia Falls. In addition, commercial motorized access will require specific campground designation along the South Nahanni River below Virginia Falls.



Outfitter's camp

#### Air Access

- air access will be permitted at Rabbitkettle Lake and Virginia Falls.
- air access to Rabbitkettle Lake and Virginia Falls will provide for drop-off and day-use purposes.

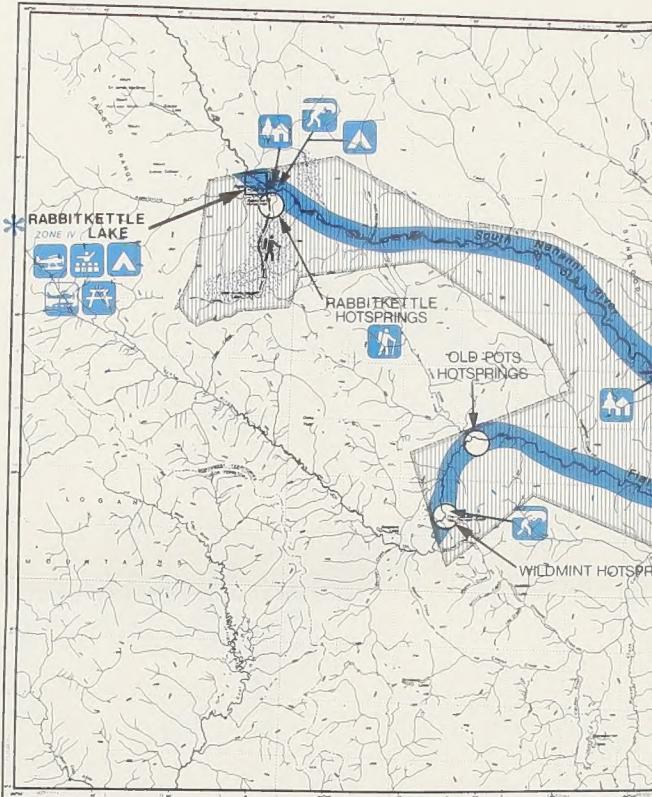
#### Motorized River Access

- motorized river use by the public will be designated for the South Nahanni River from Virginia Falls to the eastern park boundary.
- provisions will be made for both commercial motorized use (jet boat tours) and for private motorboat access.

#### Trails and Off-River Use

- access trail to Rabbitkettle Hotsprings - guided tour access only.
- access trail developed to Grotte Valerie caves - scheduled guided tour access only.
- developed hiking trails to Hole-in-the-Wall Lake, Marengo Falls/Flat River area, and the Nahanni

## NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK RESERVE



#### ALTERNATIVE III

##### ZONING:

- ZONE I. SPECIAL PRESERVATION AREA**
- ZONE II. WILDERNESS**
- ZONE IV. OUTDOOR RECREATION**

**THERE ARE NO ZONE III OR V AREAS.**

##### RIVER CORRIDOR USE:

	<b>NON-MOTORIZED USE COMMERCIAL &amp; PRIVATE</b>
	<b>MOTORIZED USE COMMERCIAL &amp; PRIVATE</b>
	<b>DESIGNATED CAMPGROUND</b>
	<b>PORTAGE</b>



#### Karstland

- encouragement of general hiking and off-river travel through provision of detailed information (maps, route description, instructions, etc.).

#### Day-Use

- day-use opportunities would be developed for Virginia Falls, and Rabbitkettle Hotsprings.
- provision for day-use includes related facility development such as picnic areas, pit privies, and access paths as required.
- commercial day-use at the Falls by air charter firms may require scheduling. Group size limita-

tions would be implemented.

#### Facilities

- designated campgrounds at Rabbitkettle Lake, Rabbitkettle Portage, Virginia Falls and Kraus Hotsprings.
- commercial motorized outfitters would require designated camping areas. Designated sites would be located in the Logau Valley and near the junction of the Flat and South Nahanni rivers.
- day-use facilities (picnic area, access paths, etc.) would be developed at Virginia Falls and Rabbitkettle Lake.



**XISTING PORTAGES & WARDEN STATIONS ARE RETAINED.)**

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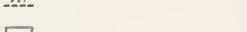
AIRCRAFT  
'DROP-OFF'



AREAS PROMOTED FOR OFF-RIVER  
USE / TRAVEL PENDING ASSESSMENT



NEW TRAIL DEVELOPMENT



OUTFITTER (MOTORIZED) - CAMP

**LEGEND**

WATERFALLS	PORTAGE	WILDERNESS	WILDERNESS
PORTAGE	WILDERNESS	WILDERNESS	WILDERNESS
WILDERNESS	WILDERNESS	WILDERNESS	WILDERNESS
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WILDERNESS	WILDERNESS	WILDERNESS	WILDERNESS

- warden patrol cabins at selected sites and portages maintained to suitable standards

**Outfitting**

- provisions for commercially licensed operators for visitor access would include both motorized and non-motorized modes of travel
- designated camping areas and fuel caches for the eventual use of motorized outfitters would be provided
- non-motorized outfitters would not be designated specific camping areas. "No-impact" camping techniques would be required

- group size limitations would be implemented. Scheduling of motorized commercial groups is implicit

**Zoning**

- zone I (Special Preservation) areas will be consistent with all other alternatives. Rabbitkettle Hotsprings, Grotte Valerie, Wild Mint Hot-springs, Deadmen Valley Sheep Licks, Sand Blowouts, and Yohn Lake.
- zone II (Wilderness) status will be designated for the river reach between Rabbitkettle Lake and Virginia Falls, and the entire park segment of the

**Flat River corridor**

- no zone III [Natural Environment] or zone V [Park Services] areas will be proposed
- zone IV [Outdoor Recreation] would be designated for Rabbitkettle Lake and an area immediately above Virginia Falls for air access. In addition, zone IV designation would apply to the entire South Nahanni river reach below Virginia Falls to the eastern boundary
- all areas not otherwise designated will be zone II.

## COMMON POSITIONS

There are a number of issues which are independent of the alternatives presented. Rather they are reflections of a policy stance, or management direction and are better addressed separate from the park plan alternative concepts.

### REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Nahanni exists as part of the regional character of the southwest NWT. As a National Park, it is affected by regional developments, and in turn has the potential to affect the region. With this recognition, Parks Canada's policy is to integrate the development and operation of the park as much as to have a beneficial social and economic impact. Through co-operation with territorial and federal agencies responsible for planning and managing surrounding areas, social, economic and physical impacts can be resolved in a mutually beneficial manner, and in ways compatible with Parks Canada's objectives.

National Parks Policy with respect to Parks Canada's role in regional planning will be applied in all alternatives.

- Parks policy encourages development of visitor facilities outside of National Parks where feasible. The Administration Centre in Fort Simpson and the Nahanni Butte Warden Station are examples of such facilities.
- Through co-operative planning, Parks Canada will help in the development of the Blackstone Territorial Park on the Liard Highway.
- No commercial services will be allowed to develop in Nahanni. Local businesses and communities will have the opportunity to provide those services requested by the public.



Fort Simpson

Rabbitkettle Warden Station is currently operating.

- Relocate the Operations Centre from the present station site to the Nahanni Butte village site to take advantage of existing infrastructure (power, aircraft landing facility, etc.). Maintain the Fort Simpson facility.
- Relocate the Operations Centre to Blackstone Territorial Park on the Liard Highway to take advantage of road access. Maintain the Fort Simpson facility.

All of these options present various implications in terms of the capital cost of redevelopment, operational efficiency and effectiveness, and other factors. These will need further assessment as the program continues. What are your thoughts on these options?

### GROUP SIZE AND VISITATION LIMITS

In wilderness areas, managing the number of people is as important as any other aspect of park management. One of the fundamental questions arising early in the planning program was "How much use can Nahanni sustain and still maintain its wilderness character?"

In order to get an idea of this limit, visitors to Nahanni were asked in a survey how many other parties they would be willing to see per day during their visit before their sense of wilderness was diminished by perceived crowding. Allowing for obvious concentration areas such as Rabbitkettle Lake and Virginia Falls, the survey showed that an average three parties encountered per day seemed to be a threshold for visitors. The average encounter rate at present by overnight visitors is one party every two days. This indicates that all things being equal (such as peak periods, travel patterns and modes of travel, etc.) the park can sustain a five to sixfold increase in visitation and still retain its ability to provide a wilderness experience of acceptable quality. There are obvious provisions necessary for managing concentration areas, access points, and designated campgrounds. Nevertheless, this proposed threshold of some 3,600 visitors per year does provide an idea of when park managers will have to reassess the amount of use Nahanni is receiving and how best to manage it.

There are, as well, environmental limits to visitation. This aspect of resource conservation involves protection of special areas, and managing the river corridor in ways that ensures that soils, vegetation, and wildlife systems can be sustained without impairment.

With respect to group size limits, it is proposed that

a limit of twenty visitors per party be adopted as a maximum. This will allow existing commercial guiding operations to maintain their viability while remaining within group size guidelines of other wilderness areas, as well as visitor indicated preferences.

Parks Canada is committed to the concept of managing visitation and group size limits to ensure that the wilderness values of Nahanni are maintained.

### REGIONAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Nahanni National Park Reserve is the recipient of virtually all the water in the South Nahanni watershed. If extensive mineral deposits in the region are developed, the hazards of potential downstream pollution from mining developments will be increased.

In the north, federal regulations establish standards for the discharge of mining effluent. Standards are based on the best practicable treatment technology available. However, harmful substances can still escape and contaminate downstream areas through accident, long-term low level exposure or even low-level accumulative effects. Parks Canada has taken a number of steps to ensure that the park's aquatic resources are protected.

- A Ministerial position has been adopted that "There will be no measurable change in baseline levels of water quality at the Park boundary from developments in the South Nahanni watershed."
- In order to ensure that this position can be maintained, Parks Canada is developing an agreement



Mining near the park

with Inland Waters Directorate to produce a baseline water quality study for the park against which future water quality can be measured.

Parks Canada will work with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to establish the Mackenzie Mountains as a priority area for regional planning.

Parks Canada has representation on Technical Review Committees of the Northwest Territories Water Board for projects affecting the South Nahanni watershed. The Water Board controls the water use licensing application process. In addition, Parks Canada also has representation, as and when necessary, on the Regional Environmental Review Committee which determines if major resource development projects should be referred to the Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Office (FEARO).



### RESOURCE HARVESTING AND LAND CLAIMS

In 1976, an amendment to the National Parks Act gave Nahanni a National Park "Reserve" status. The reserve clause is a Parliamentary recognition that native people have traditional rights in the park "pending a settlement in respect of any right, title, or interest of the people of native origin herein." This clause is based on the statement that National Parks Act applies to the reserves so set aside "save for the exercise therein by the people of native origin of the Yukon and Northwest Territories of traditional hunting, fishing, and trapping activities".



Trapping

In short, pending land claims settlements, hunting, trapping, and fishing by local peoples of native origin can continue in the park area. However, the responsibility for the protection of wildlife species and balance of ecosystems rests with Parks Canada. All resource harvesting activities will be subject to the requirement to protect the ecosystem and maintain viable populations of fish and wildlife species.

Present native resource harvesting activity is concentrated in the areas east of Yoho Ridge. Moose hunting in the Splits area in the fall, fishing on Yoho Lake, and trapping on the east slope of Yoho Ridge in winter are the major activities. Most resource harvesting by local people takes place outside the park area.

The management planning program will ensure that no legal rights in the land claims process will be prejudiced by proposals arising from the program.

## RESOURCE CONSERVATION

*Objective: to protect and manage both the terrestrial and aquatic natural resources of Nahanni to ensure perpetuation of resources basic to the park, allow natural processes to proceed uninhibited by man's activities, and balance the dual mandate of preservation and use while ensuring visitor safety.*

### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Resource management in Nahanni consists basically of the protection of special areas (e.g. Rabbitkettle Hot Springs, Grotte Valérie, etc.) and the monitoring of major wildlife species. The remote nature of the park, and the relatively little wildlife harvesting that takes place, means that disruption of natural resources is presently negligible allowing park managers to leave natural processes to continue unhindered.



Dall's Sheep

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Ensuring public safety will involve the provision of pre-trip information and guidance to visitors so that they can become aware of the skills required, and the hazards involved, in wilderness recreation in Nahanni. In this way, visitors assume the onus of responsibility for their own safety. Management intent is to promote self-reliance on the part of visitors and to minimize the monitoring of visitor activity corresponding to the park's wilderness objectives. Nevertheless, a basic capability to assist visitors in distress will be maintained.

### ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement in Nahanni involves protection of the park resources against deprecative behaviour (vandalism, poaching, etc.) by enforcement of the National Parks Act and Regulations. User education programs for pre-trip and on-site use will be developed for visitors. These brochures and guides will be designed to help minimize enforcement related concerns. Management intent will be to minimize the park presence in line with the area's wilderness objectives while maintaining a sufficient enforcement capability.

### FIRE MANAGEMENT

Parks Canada recognizes the role of fire in perpetuating the wilderness ecosystem of Nahanni. National Parks Policy specifically states that natural processes such as fire will be manipulated only if extenuating circumstances so warrant (for instance, for public safety, serious adverse effects on adjacent public lands, or to protect major facilities). Fire management policy in Nahanni is detailed in a recent agreement between Parks Canada and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND - Northern Affairs Program). Under this agreement, a small area east of Yoho Ridge is classified as a "suppression zone" (sustained attack) with all fires being suppressed. The remainder of the park will be classified as an "observation zone" where naturally caused fires are permitted to burn unchecked by man.



Wildfire

Nahanni is in an extremely remote setting. There are few facilities (a number of portages, patrol cabins, and some primitive campgrounds). It can be argued that any attempt to manipulate fire involves costs far in excess of any primitive facilities at risk. In addition, Northern Affairs Program identifies the areas outside the park boundaries (except for the area near Yoho Ridge) as an observation zone. Hence, fire management in the park will now be compatible with that on adjacent lands. In terms of public safety, operational fire management guidelines ensure public safety in the event of fire in the park. Depending on fire size, intensity, rate of spread, and other factors, travel restrictions or

even evacuation of visitors may be implemented. A park fire management plan will be drafted as part of the overall Park Conservation Plan. It will detail the courses of action with respect to the role of fire in wildlife and vegetation management.

## INTERPRETATION

*Objective: to develop a communication program for Nahanni, compatible with the park's wilderness river corridor, that provides opportunities for the public to learn about and appreciate the resources of the park, provide pre-trip information, meets resource protection objectives, and emphasizes the World Heritage designation of the park.*

Interpretation is a significant component of the planning program. Management intent is to design a program that increases the public's understanding and appreciation of the park. At the same time, interpretation must be accomplished in ways that do not compromise the park's wilderness resource. Consequently, all in-park interpretation except for Rabbitkettle Hot Springs and Grotte Valérie will be through self-guiding approaches, whereby visitors, with the help of guidebooks and pamphlets, can interpret the park features for themselves.

Regardless of the eventual management plan chosen for Nahanni, the park will remain a relatively remote place that the vast majority of Canadians will never see firsthand. To enable these people to develop an appreciation and appreciation of the park, mass media techniques such as film, exhibits, and slide presentations will be used to tell the story of Nahanni. Exhibits and slide programs will be designed for the Blackstone Territorial Park Visitor Centre on the Liard Highway and a corresponding slide/exhibit presentation at the Fort Simpson Nahanni National Park headquarters.

For visitors planning to visit Nahanni, a detailed river guide will be developed that interprets the park resources generally, but focuses on the features along the river corridor, especially the history, geology, wildlife, and ecology of the area. Self-guiding trail brochures will also be available to encourage greater off-river exploration of the park. Specific references and instruction on "no-impact" camping (techniques, visitor safety, and resource conservation) will be included to ensure that visitors have a safe and enjoyable trip. The intent of detailed pre-trip information, including relevant park regulations, reflects the indirect application of park management compatible with wilderness areas, rather than the direct on-site reminders of park management presence.

Access to and interpretation of Rabbitkettle Hot-springs will continue to be personally conducted by the warden stationed at Rabbitkettle Lake. This is the only personal interpretation service common to all alternatives. Personal guided interpretation of Grotte Valérie is a feature of alternative III.



Guided tour - Rabbitkettle Hot Springs

## OTHER ISSUES

### BOUNDARY REVIEW

Nahanni National Park Reserve was established in the early 1970's. Little detailed resource information was available at the time for the area. As a result, Nahanni's current boundaries were not based on a systematic evaluation of resources and constraints. It was understood that as detailed studies of the region became available, the park's boundaries could be modified to take this new information into account.

Parks Canada's System Planning Division is in the process of completing a boundary review study for Nahanni. The park, as a representative of the Mackenzie Mountain Natural Region of Canada, was assessed against the known resource features of peripheral lands. This assessment criteria included:

- Primary representative themes: Each National Park in Canada represents an example of the features of the natural region within which it is found. Nahanni represents the Mackenzie Mountains Region of Canada. The representative features become the themes for a particular park. In the case of Nahanni, a number of features common to the region, but not found, or are inadequately represented in the park, have been identified in adjacent areas. Alpine tundra vegetation, Dall's Sheep and Woodland Caribou are, at present, poorly represented in the park.
- The presence of unique or exceptional resources: These are features of singular importance which may not be necessarily representative of an area, but by their exceptional presence are significant. For instance, Rabbitkettle Hot springs is a good example of such a feature in the park. The exceptional karst features of the north Nahanni Plateau are features not found in the park, but which should be considered because of their particular significance as perhaps the best developed sub-arctic karst in the world.
- Ecological integrity: This criteria is the capacity or importance of an area to add to the integrity of an existing park resource. For instance the lambing area of a particular Dall's Sheep herd would be considered if it were adjacent to the park.



Boundary studies

Assessed along with these criteria will be such factors as recreational potential and interpretive potential, with visitor use in mind. In addition, any consideration for boundary changes must take into account the constraints imposed by existing land uses which might compete for park designation in a given area.

Preliminary results show that three areas rate as "high" priority candidate areas for park inclusion. These are:

- an extension onto the Tlogotsho Plateau area: The Tlogotsho area would add significant areas of alpine tundra and important Dall's Sheep habitat to Nahanni. The scenic appeal of the plateau, its hiking and camping potential and its accessibility to the South Nahanni River make it an area of high significance for recreation opportunities in the region.
- inclusion of a greater portion of the Ragged Range including the Glacier Lake area: The Ragged Range area would incorporate such important features as Mount Sir James MacBrien, one of the highest peaks in the Northwest Territories; the icefields of the Ragged Range, and Glacier Lake, the largest lake in the South Nahanni watershed and an International Biological Program site because of its exceptional vegetation diversity.
- an extension into the karst areas north of First Canyon.

The karst area of the Nahanni Plateau has been accorded international significance as the most northern example of karst development anywhere in the world. Some of the features of this limestone area riddled with sinkholes, underground streams, canyons and caverns, are reportedly the best ever documented in North America.

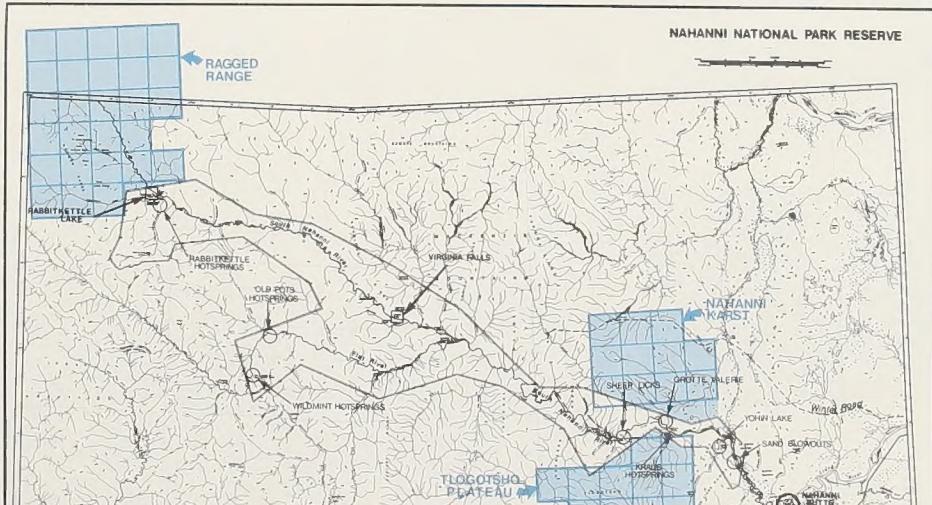
Detailed maps will be available once the study is completed. Parks Canada will present their specific intent with respect to amending the boundaries of Nahanni at the next round of public meetings. It is important to note that the process of boundary adjustment will involve communication and co-operation with numerous federal and territorial agencies, as well as private interests that have an involvement in the area. This process will extend beyond the timeframe of the park management planning program before final agreements are reached. However, the planning program provides a forum for public involvement in the initial stages of this issue so integral to Nahanni's future.



North Nahanni Karst

### OUTFITTING

Commercial guiding and outfitting services have been available for the South Nahanni River area since before park establishment in 1972. Guide-



### BOUNDARY CANDIDATE AREAS.

AREAS SHOWN ARE NOT FINAL BOUNDARY PROPOSALS. THEY REPRESENT AREAS OF HIGH VALUE FOR PARK PURPOSES WITHIN WHICH PARKS CANADA WILL SEEK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS.



Visitors at Deadman Valley

lines following park establishment limited the number of commercial services offered to four licences (two for powerboat outfitters and two for non-powered [canoe, raft] modes). Commercial operators were required to obtain a non-resident National Parks Business Licence and a valid National Parks Guide Licence. Guides were required to travel park waters at least twice in the craft they would be operating, as well as show a basic proficiency in safety and knowledge before a guide licence was issued.

The basic principle concerning outfitting in Nahanni is the encouragement of suitable commercial services for the public while maintaining adequate standards of safety and reliability. With this principle in mind, outfitters will not be regulated to any predetermined number of operators. Only those commercial guiding services licensed by the Government of the Northwest Territories under territorial ordinances and whose guides meet the basic National Parks Guide License requirements will be permitted to operate in Nahanni National Park Reserve.

Group size limitations (20 visitors per party) and scheduling will be implemented and specified on the Park Use Permit upon registration. This will help ensure that commercial operations do not disrupt other visitors or the limitations of low-density primitive facilities.

Motorized commercial services are proposed in alternative III from the eastern park boundary to Virginia Falls. Alternatives I and II would provide for non-motorized commercial services only (rafts, canoes, etc.). These two non-motorized alternatives differ in one essential factor, point of access. Unlike alternative II, alternative I does not provide for air access to Virginia Falls. Commercial operators would be required to start their park trips at Rabbitkettle Station.



Rafting tour

## ZONING

Zoning is one of the most important tools for the planning and management of national parks. The national parks zoning system is a resource-based approach by which land and water areas of a park are classified according to their need for protection and their capability to accommodate visitors.

The following zoning plan combines the proposed alternative Zone I areas with the other three alternatives. Zones I and IV vary depending on the mode of access and the level of use proposed. No Zone III (natural environment) or Zone V (park services) areas are proposed.

The zoning system does not apply to resource harvesting activities and traditional use by native peoples. Pending land claim settlements, these uses are accommodated within the zoning system.

### ZONE I - SPECIAL PRESERVATION

These are specific areas or features which deserve special preservation because they contain or support unique, rare or endangered features or the best examples of natural features. Access and use will be strictly controlled or may be prohibited altogether. No motorized access or man-made structures will be permitted.

1. Rabbitkettle Hot springs - guided tour access to the hot springs will continue.

2. Grotte Valerie - this solution cave system will remain closed to general access. Scheduled guided access may be implemented as outlined in alternative III.

3. Wild Mint Hot springs

4. Old Pots Hot springs

5. Deadman Valley Sheep Licks

6. Sand Blowouts

7. Yoho Lake

One area has been added to the list of Zone I special areas first outlined in the Interim Management Guidelines. This is Old Pots Hot springs on the Flat River, an area of extensive tufa formation. Two areas from the original list have been deleted in light of recent studies. These are Hole-in-the-Wall Hot springs and the Nesting Ponds. Nesting Ponds along the upper South Nahanni River Hole-in-the-Wall Hot springs has no tufa buildup and is not considered rare or fragile in the same sense as Rabbitkettle Hot springs or Old Pots Hot springs. The Trumpeter Swan Nesting Ponds have never been identified as any specific bodies of water nor has nesting activity been confirmed in the area. It was only suspected that these birds may be nesting on the ponds bordering the South Nahanni River.



Grotte Valerie

Should future research confirm nesting activity, those specific areas will be reassessed for Zone I status.

### ZONE II - WILDERNESS

Wilderness zones are extensive areas which are good representations of each of the natural history themes of the park and which will be maintained in a wilderness state. Only certain activities requiring limited primitive visitor facilities appropriate to a wilderness experience will be allowed. Limits will be placed on the numbers of users. No motorized access will be permitted. Management actions will ensure that visitors are dispersed.

#### Alternative I

The entire river corridors of the South Nahanni and Flat rivers are zone II. All uplands and lakes not otherwise designated are also zone II.

#### Alternative II

The entire river corridor of the South Nahanni River (except for a section immediately above Virginia Falls designated for air access) and the entire park portion of the Flat River are zone II. All uplands and lakes not otherwise designated are also zone II.

#### Alternative III

The South Nahanni River corridor from the western park boundary to an area immediately above Virginia Falls, and the entire Flat River corridor are zone II. All upland areas and lakes not otherwise designated are also zone II.



Sand Blowouts

### ZONE III - NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Areas that are maintained as natural environments and which can sustain, with a minimum of impairment, a selected range of low-density outdoor activities with a minimum of related facilities. Non-motorized access will be preferred. Access by public transit will be permitted. Controlled access by private vehicles will only be permitted where it has traditionally been allowed in the past.

No zone III areas are proposed.

### ZONE IV - OUTDOOR RECREATION

Limited areas that can accommodate a broad range of educational outdoor recreation opportunities and related facilities in ways that respect the natural landscape and that are safe and convenient. Motorized access will be permitted and may be separated from non-motorized access.

#### Alternative I

Rabbitkettle Lake for purposes of air access.

#### Alternative II

Rabbitkettle Lake and an area immediately above Virginia Falls for purposes of air access.

#### Alternative III

Rabbitkettle Lake and an area immediately above Virginia Falls are designated zone IV for air access purposes. The South Nahanni River corridor from Virginia Falls to the eastern park boundary is also designated zone IV for motorized watercraft access.

### ZONE V - PARK SERVICES

Towns and visitor centres in certain existing national parks which contain a concentration of visitor services and support facilities as well as park administration functions. Motorized access will be permitted.

No zone V areas are proposed.



Rabbitkettle Hot Springs

Now that you have read this newsletter, please complete the enclosed questionnaire and mail it to us in the envelope supplied. We need your comments.

#### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Over the next few weeks, public meetings will be scheduled to review these alternatives. The next newsletter will present your responses and choices from these alternatives.

It is not too late to join our mailing list and add your views to the planning for Nahanni. If you would like backcopies of our first two newsletters, giving the background to the previous planning program stages, please fill out the space on the return form.

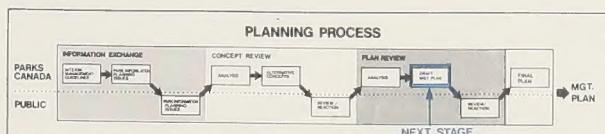


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Canada



National Parks  
Centennial

1885

1985

Centenaire des  
parcs nationaux

1885-1985:  
100 years of Heritage Conservation  
Canada's first national park was established in 1885 at Banff, Alberta.  
Today there are national parks and national historic parks in every province and territory. These national parks and historic sites offer Canadians the opportunity to review our commitment to preserve examples of our heritage unimpaired for the benefit of all Canadians.